

Remarks

Applicants affirm their election of Group II in response to the restriction requirement relayed by the Examiner during a teleconference on or about February 25, 2004. The non-elected claims are hereby withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to informalities in claims 18, 20, and 26. The foregoing amendments correct the referenced typographical errors in those claims.

The Examiner rejected pending independent claims 13 and 21 as unpatentable over Wallin and Wallin in view of Unkes, respectively. Applicants respectfully traverse those rejections.

Claim 13 recites that the mold element includes “at least one complimentary adjustable edge member disposed on said generally planar molding surface.” However, Wallin fails to disclose such a structure. Rather, Wallin discloses a “generally convex molding surface 51” (col. 4, ll. 7-8) which is devoid of any complementary adjustable edge member (see Fig. 3). Because the Wallin reference fails to teach every element recited in independent claim 13, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 USC §102(e) should be withdrawn.

Claim 21 recites that the “reinforcing elements are disposed substantially throughout the wall of the molded part.” Neither Wallin nor Unkes discloses or suggests such a feature. Wallin does not disclose the use of reinforcing elements in his rotomolding process, a fact acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action. Unkes merely states that “spaced reinforcing members 7” may be disposed in the central cavity forming “a bridging layer 9 between opposed inner surfaces of the inner skin.” (Col. 4, ll. 51-56). The reinforcing members 7 are not disposed substantially throughout the wall of the molded part as recited in claim 21. The combination of Wallin and Unkes thus fails to teach each element recited in independent claim 21. The rejection of independent claim 21 as being unpatentable over Wallin in view of Unkes should accordingly be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are believed to be allowable as they depend from allowable base claims 13 and 21.

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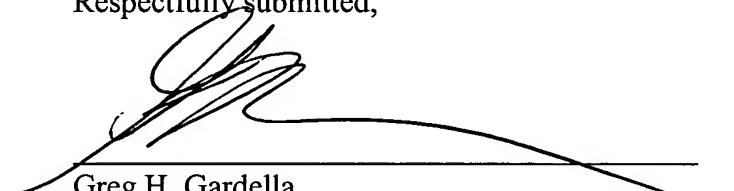
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Applicants note that the claim amendments made herein are made solely for the purposes of more clearly and particularly describing and claiming the invention, and not for purposes of overcoming art or for patentability or narrowing the claims. Applicants hereby specifically reserve the right to prosecute claims of different or broader scope in a continuation or divisional application. The Examiner should infer no adoption of a position with respect to patentability or acquiescence in any way to any position taken by the Examiner based on the foregoing amendments or remarks.

Enclosed is a check for \$210 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/12/04


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